

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14, 15 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 14, and claim 14 has been canceled. Dependent claims 15 and 19 were rewritten into independent form by including the features of claim 1 and claims 1, 15 and 18, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 15 and 19 are now allowable. Claims 2-10, 12 and 13, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies. Claim 11 has been canceled. Withdrawn claims 20-48 were also canceled.

In addition, applicants have added new claims 49-58. Support for these new claims can be found in original claims 2-5, 9 and 10. Claims 49-58 depend upon allowable claims 15 or 19, and are thus allowable due at least to their respective dependencies. Accordingly, all pending claims in this application are now allowable.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Since claim 11 has been canceled, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1, 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada (US Patent No. 4505994). As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 14, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 is now allowable. Since claims 12 and 16 depend upon allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over, Shimada. As stated above, claim 1 is now allowable. Since claims 6-8 depend upon allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Shimada in view of Hirota (US Patent No. 4740434). Again, claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 2 depends upon claim 1, and is also allowable at least for that reason. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Shimada. Again, claim 1 is now allowable. Thus, claims 3 and 4, which depend upon claim 1, are also allowable, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 9, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Shimada in view of Chiem (US Publication No. 2003/0008195). Claim 11 has been canceled. Claims 5, 9 and 10 respectively depend upon now allowable claim 1. Thus, these claims are now also allowable, and this rejection should be withdrawn.


Claims 13 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Shimada in view of Shimazaki (WO 02/42534; US Patent No. 6812171). Claim 13 depends upon now allowable claim 1. Accordingly, claim 13 is also allowable, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **360842012100**.

Dated: January 25, 2008

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